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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RCREIS,JR
APPROVED BY IO/UNP:LTSTULL
EUR/IB - MR. MARTIN
AF/S - MR. MCDONALD
IO/UNP - MR. HEWITT
L/UNA - MR. SURENA
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P R 080057Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PO, PU, PFOR -
SUBJECT: QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES AT RED CROSS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 208369

FOR USDEL TO RED CROSS CONFERENCE

1. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN NOVEMBER 6 NOTE REQUESTED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN OPPOSING POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS AT RED CROSS CONFERENCE TO ALLOW GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION OR, PERHAPS, DELEGATION OF A HASTILY CONSTITUTED NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY FROM "REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU" TO PARTICI-
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PATE IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. PORTUGAL HAS ALSO ASKED

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THAT WE SEEK TO PREVENT ADMISSION OF ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONFERENCE AS OBSERVERS. NOTE ASSERTED PORTUGAL WOULD WITHDRAW FROM CONFERENCE SHOULD DELEGATION FROM GUINEA-BISSAU OR REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BE ADMITTED.

2. REFTEL PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU (PORTUGUESE GUINEA), EVENTS AT UN CONCERNING TERRITORY, AND US POSITION ON ISSUE. IN OUR OPINION GUINEA-BISSAU DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR STATEHOOD UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, INSURGENTS OF AFRICAN PARTY FOR LIBERATION OF GUINEA AND CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (PAIGC) HAVE NEITHER EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER CLEARLY DEFINED TERRITORY OR POPULATION, ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, NOR CAPACITY TO CONDUCT FOREIGN RELATIONS. PORTUGAL REMAINS IN CONTROL OF ADMINISTRATION, POPULATION CENTERS AND MOST RURAL AREAS OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA. PAIGC HOLDS ONLY LIMITED TRACTS WITHIN TERRITORY ALONG ITS BORDERS WITH GUINEA AND SENEGAL. US CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE PORTUGAL'S SOVEREIGNTY IN TERRITORY, AND CONSIDERS GUINEA-BISSAU NOT ELIGIBLE TO ACCEDE TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES PARTICIPATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS OBSERVERS AT MEETINGS OF SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE RED CROSS IS WITHOUT BENEFIT TO THE ORGANIZATIONS, AND IS OFTEN DISRUPTIVE.

4. USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPTS TO ADMIT GOVERNMENTAL OR NATIONAL SOCIETY DELEGATION FROM GUINEA-BISSAU TO RED CROSS CONFERENCE. SHOULD IT BE PROPOSED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AS OBSERVERS, DEL SHOULD INSIST THEIR PARTICIPATION ACCORD WITH ORGANIZATION'S RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BE DEMONSTRABLY NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

5. DEL SHOULD REPORT TO DEPARTMENT ANY ACTIVITY AT CONFERENCE CONCERNING GUINEA-BISSAU, LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AID TO "LIBERATED AREAS" IN PORTUGUESE AFRICAN
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TERRITORIES, OR INFRINGEMENT OF PORTUGAL'S OR SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATION IN RED CROSS CONFERENCE.
RUSH

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